

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please add the new drawing sheet that solely includes Fig. 3C. The new drawing sheet, which solely includes Fig. 3C, is attached, and it is labeled in the top margin as "New Sheet". It is respectfully submitted that the New Sheet does not add any new matter.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of March 7, 2006. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

It is acknowledged with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 2-5, 9-13 and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims. In this regard:

- independent claim 1 has been amended to represent objected-to claim 2 rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims;
- objected-to claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims;
- objected-to claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims, except that “retaining means” has been changed to “retainer”, as will be discussed in greater detail below;
- objected-to claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims, except that “retaining means” has been changed to “retainer”, as will be discussed in greater detail below;
- independent claim 14 has been amended to represent objected-to claim 19 rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims, except that “retaining means” has been changed to “retainer”, as will be discussed in greater detail below; and
- new independent claim 26 represents objected-to claim 18 rewritten in independent form including all the of the recitations of the base and any intervening claims, except that “retaining means” has been changed to “retainer”, as will be discussed in greater detail below.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that the attached new drawing sheet, which includes Fig. 3C, overcomes the objection to the drawings.

The Office Action objects to the specification apparently with respect to the recitation of “deenergized” in original claim 5 . It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the

specification has been overcome by amending claim 5 to change “deenergized” to “unenergized”. It is respectfully submitted that the recitation of “unenergized” is supported in the specification, for example at page 6, line 6. The Applicant is referring to the specification in an effort to streamline prosecution, and not for the purpose of limiting the claims to the disclosed embodiments.

The Office Action objects to the claims. It is respectfully submitted that clarifying amendments have been made to the claims to overcome the objections, and these amendments for overcoming the objections have not been made to narrow the scope of claims. For example, in many places “retaining means” has been changed to “retainer”, and “release means” has been changed to “releaser” for purposes of clarification and not to narrow the scope of the claims.

The section headings (e.g., “(a)” and “(1)” and the like) have been included in the claims for purposes of readability, and not to narrow the scope of the claims.

The Office Action rejects original claims 1, 6-8 and 14-17 as being anticipated. The Applicant does not admit to the propriety of the rejections. Notwithstanding and in an effort to expedite prosecution, each of the presently pending independent claims of the present application include subject matter that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of the independent claims is allowable. It is further respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable because of their respective dependence from an allowable independent claim, and because the dependent claims further patentably distinguish.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited. If for some reason the Examiner deems that the present application is not in condition for immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 704-331-4904, in an effort to expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted

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Date


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